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Sixty-second session

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## Second Committee

**Summary record of the 1st meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 20 September 2007, at 4.30 p.m.

*Chairperson*: Ms. Lintonen ..... (Finland)

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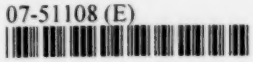

*The meeting was called to order at 4.35 p.m.*

**Statement by the Chairperson**

1. **The Chairperson** said that the Committee's meetings would begin punctually at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. If a speaker was absent, his or her delegation would automatically be placed last on the list of speakers. During the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, the Committee had used 75 per cent of its allocated conference resources and had lost over 22 hours owing to late starting and early adjournment of meetings. As that represented a decline in the statistics compared to the sixtieth session, she would make every effort to ensure that the Committee would improve its statistics in 2007. In that connection, if there were few or no speakers inscribed for a particular meeting, the time and the conference services should be utilized either for negotiations or for meetings of interest groups.

2. She proposed that speakers should be limited to 10 minutes for the general debate and 7 minutes for statements made under individual agenda items, with some flexibility for the representatives of interest groups. Introductions by the Secretariat should also be limited to 10 minutes and representatives of the Secretariat, agencies, funds and programmes were explicitly requested to focus their statements on selected issues of concern to them and to distribute their interventions in advance, if possible.

3. She recalled several important changes in the working methods adopted by the Committee. Draft resolutions under the various agenda items would be negotiated and adopted by the Committee throughout the session, rather than at the end; informal negotiations would be held early in the session and, if the need arose, formal informals might be scheduled at the recommendation of the Bureau. Delegations were therefore requested to do their utmost to facilitate the adoption of draft resolutions by the deadlines recommended in document A/C.2/62/L.1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/277, draft resolutions should be concise and action-oriented. Furthermore, decisions rather than resolutions should be used as much as possible for issues of a procedural nature.

4. Two key elements were essential for the successful completion of the Committee's programme of work. One was discipline in honouring the deadlines for submission of draft proposals that were indicated in the document on the organization of work (A/C.2/62/L.1). The other was the full utilization of time in between the consideration of items for delegations to prepare the draft proposals, establish group positions or conduct informal informals.

5. The Committee would have at its disposal "Quick Place", a secure online shared workspace which had been used for the first time in the previous year.

6. She took it that the arrangements she had described were acceptable to the Committee.

7. *It was so decided.*

**Organization of work** (A/C.2/62/L.1)

8. **The Chairperson** said that the programme of work (A/C.2/62/L.1) was largely based on the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 57/270 B and 58/316 and decision 61/544, as well as the suggestions and recommendations of the Bureaux of the Committee at the sixtieth and sixty-first sessions of the General Assembly. The items allocated to the Committee would be contained in a letter from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairperson and to be issued as document A/C.2/62/1. The target date for the conclusion of the Committee's work was 30 November 2007, which was recommended by the General Committee on the basis of a General Assembly recess date of Tuesday, 18 December 2007.

9. **Ms. De Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee) informed the Committee of some changes to the programme of work that had been recommended by the Bureau.

10. **The Chairperson** took it that the Committee wished to approve its programme of work as contained in A/C.2/62/L.1, as orally revised, on the understanding that it might have to be adjusted in the light of the decisions taken by the General Assembly at its second meeting pertaining to the allocation of items to the Second Committee.

11. *It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.*